

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compostable sheet material comprising a compostable substrate layer, a first compostable and sealable layer on a first side of the substrate layer, and a second compostable and sealable layer overlying said first sealable layer, wherein the material of the second sealable layer has a lower heat-sealing initiation temperature than the material of the first sealable layer.
2. A compostable sheet material according to any preceding claim, wherein the substrate comprises an oxygen barrier layer.
3. A compostable sheet material according to any preceding claim, wherein the substrate comprises a layer of a printing substrate such as paper.
4. A compostable sheet material according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of the first and second sealable layers comprise a polymer or copolymer of lactic acid.
5. A compostable sheet material according to any preceding claim, wherein the sheet material is at least about 90% composted within six months, as determined by the method of EN13432.
6. An environmentally friendly package comprising a compostable sheet material according to any of claims 1 to 5.
7. An environmentally friendly package comprising a compostable sheet material, said sheet material comprising a compostable substrate layer, a first compostable and sealable layer on a first side of the substrate layer, and a second compostable and sealable layer overlying said first sealable layer, wherein the package comprises first and second regions of sealing between

sheets of compostable material, said first region having a relatively high sealing strength, and said second region having a relatively low sealing strength.

8. An environmentally friendly package according to claim 7, wherein said compostable sheet is a compostable sheet material according to any of claims 1 to 5.
9. An environmentally friendly package according to any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the package is a beverage making capsule that contains a beverage making ingredient.
10. An environmentally friendly package according to claim 9, wherein the capsule further comprises a compostable filter sheet inside the capsule and bonded to an internal surface of the capsule.
11. A method of manufacture of an environmentally friendly package comprising the step of providing a compostable sheet material according to any of claims 1 to 5, and sealing an area of said sheet material to form said package, wherein the step of sealing is carried out at a first temperature in a first region of said area and at a second temperature different from said first set of conditions in a second region of said area, whereby the peel strength of the resulting seal is different in said first and second regions.
12. A method according to claim 11 comprising the steps of:
placing two webs of the compostable sheet material in face-to-face relation; and
bonding the webs together around a margin to form a capsule body.

13. A method according to claim 11 or 12 for the manufacture of an environmentally friendly package according to any of claims 6 to 10.